

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-05

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL OSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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UNCLAS BANGKOK 20274

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING 15,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES
UNDER IPP-77 OF AUGUST 11, 1977
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DEPT PASS INS DEP. COMMR (COEXM-BROBSON)

REF: A: STATE 216522; B: SINGAPORE 3909 NOTAL

1. WE APPRECIATE RECEIVING DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS
IN REF A. THERE ARE SOME CONFLICTS WITH REF B.

APPARENTLY THE TWO TELEGRAMS CROSSED, SINCE REF A DID NOT REFER TO REF B.

2. PARA 2 OF REF A LISTS THE COUNTRIES OR AREAS IN WHICH IPP-77 WILL APPLY. WE ASSUME THAT OMISSION OF MACAO AND BRUNEI WAS UNINTENTIONAL, AND THAT IPP-77 WILL COVER THE SMALL NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN THOSE TWO LOCATIONS.

3. WE FIND THE PHASING SOMEWHAT RIGID. REFTEL B, BASED ON OBSERVATION OF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND, HAS PLANS FOR INITIATING PHASE II, THE SECOND SCREENING OF THE BOAT CASES, IN LATE OCTOBER RATHER THAN MID-TO LATE NOVEMBER AS REFTEL A INDICATES.

4. WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THE NECESSITY TO ALLOW THIRD COUNTRIES TO TAKE AS MANY REFUGEES AS POSSIBLE. NEW ZEALAND, HOWEVER, HAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED ITS SELECTIONS. THE FRENCH AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE CONTINUING PROGRAMS THAT DO NOT FIT INTO OUR PHASE SYSTEM. CANADA IS CURRENTLY SELECTING 225 FROM THAILAND, AND DENMARK 25. WE THUS DO NOT ANTICIPATE THIRD COUNTRIES RUSHING IN TO SNAP UP CANDIDATES IN THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF NOVEMBER. IN SOME FIRST ASYLUM AREAS - SUCH AS KOREA, TAIWAN, BRUNEI AND EAST MALAYSIA - THIRD COUNTRIES ARE UNLIKELY TO SEEK REFUGEES. VERY FEW OF THE REFUGEES UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THOSE AREAS WILL REQUEST RESETTLEMENT IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE U.S., EVEN FEWER WILL BE ACCEPTED. THUS TO DELAY PROCESSING AND SPONSORSHIP SEARCH FOR THIS GROUP WILL PROLONG REFUGEE HARDSHIPS.

5. REF B MAKES AN ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT FOR INS INTERVIEWING OF ALL BOAT CASE REFUGEES, AT LEAST IN EAST MALAYSIA, BRUNEI, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA, DURING THE FIRST PHASE. THE SAVINGS IN TIME, MONEY, AND MANPOWER ARE SELF-EVIDENT. THOSE REFUGEES WHO DO NOT FIT CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS COULD BE HELD FOR MOVEMENT ALONG WITH OTHER PHASE II BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

6. ON ANOTHER TOPIC, REFTEL A CONTAINS AN APPARENT CONTRADICTION. PARA 3 (F) 2 STATES THAT PHASE II WILL DEAL WITH BOAT CASE REFUGEES ARRIVING AFTER AUGUST 11 WHO MEET IPP-77 CRITERIA. PARA 4 (A) STATES THAT "CONSULS WILL SUBMIT TO INS FOR INTERVIEW AND CLEARANCE THOSE CASES WHICH WILL MEET PHASE I MOVEMENT CRITERIA TR, DURING PHASE II, THOSE REFUGEES ARRIVING POST-AUGUST 11 WHO MEET CE PROGRAM CRITERIA." THE QUESTION OF WHICH SET OF CRITERIA TO APPLY ARISES

IN THE CASE OF MARRIED SIBLINGS, WHO ARE INCLUDED UNDER CE BUT EXCLUDED FROM IPP. ADDITIONALLY, THE DATE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CAT II CASES DIFFERS IN THE TWO SETS OF CRITERIA.

7. PARA 3 (K) REFTTEL A ASKS FOR CLEARANCE OF ABOUT 3000 REFUGEES BY MID-TO LATE NOVEMBER. AS PREVIOUS REPORTING FROM BANGKOK HAS INDICATED, WE WOULD PREFER, IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS, TO COMPLETE ALL INLAND CAMP SCREENING BEFORE SELECTING REFUGEES FOR INS CLEARANCE. A POSSIBLE EXCEPTION IS THE SIKHIU CAMP, WHICH CONTAINS VIETNAMESE UNRESETTLEABLE IN THAILAND. SPONSORSHIP FOR MANY BOAT CASE REFUGEES WILL PROVE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FIND. IF THE VOLAG'S DO NOT SUCCEED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SECURING SPONSORSHIP FOR ALL OF THEM BY NOVEMBER 11 - AND RATIONAL INDIVIDUALS MUST ADMIT THAT POSSIBILITY - INITIATING A SPONSORSHIP SEARCH FOR AN ADDITIONAL 3000 LAND CAMP CASES AT THAT TIME WOULD ONLY COMPOUND THE PROBLEM, AND PROBABLY RESULT IN DELAYS IN SPONSORSHIPS FOR BOAT CASES.

8. MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROPERLY IDENTIFY, PRE-SCREEN, AND DOCUMENT FOR INS 3000 LAND CAMP REFUGEES BY NOVEMBER 11 WITHOUT CRITICAL DISRUPTION TO THE AGREED UPON WORK PLAN. WE PROPOSE TO BEGIN SUBMITTING BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON CATEGORY I AND II CASES TO ACVA WITH REQUESTS FOR SPONSORSHIPS BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER. INS APPROVAL OF A CASE IS NOT A PRE-REQUISITE TO INSTITUTING THIS PROCESS. INS INTERVIEW AND LAND CAMP REFUGEE MOVEMENT COULD THEN BEGIN IN JANUARY, AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED, WITHOUT THE SERIOUS DISRUPTION THAT PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN PARA K OF REF A WOULD CREATE.

9. THE POST WOULD ADDITIONALLY APPRECIATE SOME GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCESS EMANCIPATED AND UNEMANCIPATED UNACCOMPANIED MINORS. CERTAINLY IN BOAT CASES OOR IS A COMPELLING HUMANITARIAN ARGUMENT FOR ADMISSION OF SUCH REFUGEES. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONSULT WITH VOLAGS TO ESTABLISH POLICY GUIDELINES ON SPONSORSHIP OF UNACCOMPANIED MINOR CHILDREN, OF WHOM SOME 178 HAVE BEEN PRELIMINARILY IDENTIFIED IN THAILAND. WHITEHOUSE

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